

**Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes October 29, 2015
7:00, Durham Public Library**

APPROVED JANUARY 28, 2016

members present: Emily Schmalzer (Brentwood), Al Hall, Dick Snow (Candia), Anne Lightbody, Dick Lord (Durham), Joe Foley (Epping), Todd Piskovitz (Exeter), Pat deBeer (Fremont), Sharon Meeker, Preston Samuel (Lee), Debbie McNelly (Raymond), Dawn Genes (associate member)

members absent: Cynthia Kelsey (excused), Michelle Daley Shattuck (excused), Ann Welsh, Carolyn Matthews (excused)

staff/affiliates: Suzanne Petersen

guests: Wally Bothner (Durham), Jake Poirier

Meeting began at 7:04.

summary of motions:

Anne Lightbody made a motion to authorize Preston Samuel to draft a letter to the Site Evaluation Committee on behalf of LRAC regarding impacts of the Northern Pass Project on aesthetics and local economies. Todd Piskovitz seconded. The motion passed with 10 yes votes, 1 abstention, and 1 no vote.

Presentation: Suspended Sediment Production in a Tributary to Woodman Brook, Durham, by Jake Poirier (BS environmental science, UNH)

For several years, sediment has been flowing into “T Creek”, a tributary of Woodman Brook in Durham. At times, this sediment has reached the Lamprey River. Sediment erosion is one of the most common problems leading to impaired water quality. High levels of suspended sediment can result in reduction of aesthetics and to degradation of aquatic habitats.

A groundwater spring feeds T Creek year-round and intermittently delivers sediment to T Creek. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the amount of sediment flux has been increasing over the last five years.

Quick macroinvertebrate studies performed above the source of the sediment showed a normal aquatic community living on a rocky bottom with clear water. Studies below the sediment source found no macroinvertebrates and a silty bottom.

This project attempted to determine the hydro-geologic processes that contribute high levels of suspended sediment to the spring on T Creek.

Results: The sediment from the spring is, on average, larger than the geologic material from the adjacent bank. This suggests that the suspended sediment in the creek is not coming from the bank. The highest levels of sediment turbidity were observed approximately one day after significant precipitation events and during periods of high snow melt as water recharged the ground water. The source of the spring water might also be a lower source confined under a layer of glaciomarine clay which might serve as the source of sediment. It is likely that the release of sediment is a natural process and is not related to human activity in the surrounding area.

The meeting was recessed for 15 minutes to celebrate the 80th birthday of one of the representatives.

approval of minutes from September 24, 2015:

Preston Samuel made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Dick Lord seconded. Minutes were approved with 11 yes votes and 2 abstentions.

work group updates:

outreach:

Chick & Dee-Dee's Lamprey River Adventure:

Denise Brown has completed many illustrations and will send proofs soon. Next meeting will probably be in mid-late November.

Great Bay Trout Unlimited presentation:

GBTU contacted us back in September (?) to arrange a presentation. The presentation is scheduled for March.

river herring:

Kevin Sullivan of NHF&G reported that 69,843 fish used the fish ladder at McCallen Dam (fourth highest run since 1972) and 14,812 fish used the ladder at Wiswall.

Although radiotagging fish and determining exactly where they go upstream of Wadleigh were discussed, the project will not take place due to the dam owner's refusal to cooperate in any way. NHF&G will investigate fish dispersal only if there is some potential of using the findings to seek funding for migration improvements. The NH attorney general has determined that "under current state interpretation of land ownership, the landowner owns the entire riverbed in non-tidal waters of the state."

annual report:

The full report and the one-page report that towns use for their own annual reports are being prepared.

NPS revised contractual language:

Jim MacCartney was asked for advice about the revised regulations. He has provided a detailed set and a simpler set for committee review. The detailed set is onerous and could be a major deal-breaker for small projects, especially requirements for liability and workers compensation insurance. These will be discussed at the next W&S meeting.

new representatives:

It would be highly desirable to have new members from Newmarket and Epping who are engaged with town historical societies. We will focus on this effort in December.

Some contacts were made in Nottingham during the Family Fun Day. One person emailed indicating interest in early October, but there has been no further communication.

Volksmarch:

Contacts will be made in mid-late November to get the ball rolling with Newmarket and Durham.

push for more collaboration with existing town groups:

As noted earlier, LRAC does not have the ready buy-in to support a core group of followers. We need to work with town libraries, rec departments, schools, and historical associations when we offer activities. A poster outlining current offerings has been completed. Sending a letter and poster alone will not yield many allies. We will be contacting the directors of these groups to build personal rapport and opportunities.

social media presence:

All agree that we need to build our presence on Face Book and Twitter, but all agree that resources currently in-house will not be the best fit. It was suggested that we contact Mimi Becker, Tom Kelley, or John Carroll to create a small project for one of their students to help us in this venture.

Small Grants program:

Do we want to continue the program as is? Probably not. The model of having a set period for publicity, due dates for applications, and due dates for final projects is not popular. Towns are not getting engaged... too little money for most projects,

projects require town council approval to accept funds. We should keep the program under outreach work-group supervision for projects that come up. One of the basic premises of the program was to invite involvement from other groups and individuals who can bring fresh ideas, but many recent grants have been awarded to LRWA.

history:

The annual report reflects no projects for FY 2015. This needs to change for FY 2016. Some local history was offered as part of the foot path feasibility study presentations, but we need to be more engaged. Mill history in Newmarket and Epping are rich sources of collaboration.

wildlife:

The wildlife subcommittee is stalled. SELT and GBNERR have some talented naturalists we could work with to offer interesting trips and who might want to join LRAC to add some fresh perspectives to research.

project review:

- Newmarket: lot-line adjustment and proposed subdivision will go to the planning board on Nov. 10. Interest remains to include a portage around McCallen Dam, but some legal issues need to be ironed out.
- Next meeting will take place Thursday, Nov. 5 at 7:00 at the Lee Safety Complex. Three permits for Deerfield pertaining to the Northern Pass project will be discussed.

Wild and Scenic Subcommittee:

financial report:

The Wild and Scenic subcommittee is now officially in the last year of the five year agreement with the National Park Service. The total projected surplus is forecasted to be around \$83,000. Working groups were encouraged to review their budgets promptly, as it is likely that if not used, the surplus could be transferred to the land protection fund over the next few months.

recreation update:

Preston Samuel has written and submitted the final report on the feasibility of creating a walking path along the lower Lamprey to the National Park Service. The final report and supporting maps will be placed on the website. The bottom line of the experience is that a walking path is definitely feasible, but LRAC is not in a position to carry the project to completion. That onus will need to lie with other groups.

wildlife:

- culvert project:
As reported by Kitty Miller, the project is floundering. The next anticipated start date will be spring of 2016.
- River herring update was shared and it was noted that NHF&G will not pursue radiotagging fish unless and until the owner of the Wadleigh Falls Dam decides to work with NHF&G. Members had several questions and requested that a research biologist be invited to speak with the group.

land protection:

Phase I of Project L in Epping has wrapped up. This project adds 1800 feet of frontage on the Lamprey and 179.46 acres to the total protected with LRAC help and funding. Phase II is scheduled to close in January 2016 and will add another 81 acres. Phase I does not entail a transfer of funds from LRAC to SELT; that will come at the end of Phase II.

cows in the river update:

Laurel Cox reported that she met with the landowner. His herd currently consists of three cows and he anticipates no cows next year. He is getting older and plans to transition away from farming. He has no interest in pursuing alternative methods of watering his cows.

New NPS contractor/subcontractor language:

Jim MacCartney was not present to discuss this. Much needs to be discussed, so time will be scheduled to do this at a later meeting

town issues:

Dick Snow reported that someone from Northwood had noted that the drawdown of Pawtuckaway Lake did not occur through "Dam 1", but with the other dam, despite notation in the instream flow management plan that drawdowns would occur through Dam 1.

events- presentation:

Nov. 17: LRWA, the New England Grassroots Foundations, and the NH Charitable Trust will be sponsoring a round-table discussion and presentation about the defeat of the Onassis oil refinery proposed for Great Bay in the 1970s. It will be held at the auditorium/grand meeting room at the Newmarket mill complex.

Northern Pass Project:

Preston Samuel has reviewed the project as it applies locally and state-wide. The local permits seem to be acceptable technically, but the overall effects that go beyond mere compliance with wetland and shoreland regulations warrant review and comment about "fitting in" with existing uses of the land: effects to aesthetics, quality of life, local economies, broad environmental considerations. A discussion

ensued regarding whether LRAC should submit a letter to the Site Evaluation Committee. Should we investigate and cite other LACs' reasons for opposition or simply note our own local/watershed concerns? Should we work with Deerfield to write a joint letter?

Anne Lightbody made a motion to authorize Preston Samuel to draft a letter to the Site Evaluation Committee on behalf of LRAC regarding impacts of the Northern Pass Project on aesthetics and local economies. Todd Piskovitz seconded. The motion passed with 10 yes votes, 1 abstention, and 1 no vote.

next meeting:

Dick Snow proposed cancelling the meetings for November and December due to proximity to the holidays. The group agreed by consensus. The next meeting will be held January 28, 2016.

adjournment:

Dick Lord made a motion to adjourn. Preston Samuel seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:20.